constrained to admit an investigation, he will yet contrive, like Rachel, to keep one spot concealed, and that the one in which he retains the idols of his worship,—and the inquiry terminates in a more confirmed deception.

Hence we find that of all branches of knowledge, the knowledge of ourselves and of our sins is that which is most neglected. In all other sciences, knowledge flatters our vanity, raises us in the eyes of our neighbours, increases our influence in society; but a searching inquiry into the state of our heart wounds our pride, and lowers us in our own esteem. Hence it is that we meet continually with persons possessed of great shrewdness and sagacity in all other matters, who are most lamentably ignorant of themselves. Many have attained an extraordinary knowledge of mankind in general, and can discern at once the weak points of every neighbour, but are pitiably blind to every one of their own infirmities; it is amusing to observe, that of the whole circle of their acquaintanceship, they are perhaps the only persons to whom their failings are unknown. There are individuals, skilled in all other science, utterly ignorant of this; capable of calculating the motions of the heavenly bodies, and yet knowing nothing of the movements of their own hearts—of predicting the eclipses of the sun and planets, but unacquainted with the dark spots on their own characters—of decomposing the material substances around them, but not of analyzing the motives by which they are swayed. Many, we suspect, pass from the cradle to the grave under the influence of divers views, feelings, impulses, and passions; but without once stopping to inquire what is the relation in which they stand to God and his law. Bather than confess the danger, by casting out their sounding-lines and measuring the depths, they permit themselves to drift along they know not whither, till at last death, like the cry of "Breakers a-head!" awakes them from their lethargy, but

only to shew them stranded as a wreck on the shores of eternity. This unwillingness on the part of the human heart to submit to examination—this shrinking from inspection—this trembling and shaking, and studious concealment—all are indicative of conscious guilt The party would not be so disinclined to look into his accounts, were he not afraid to discover losses, debt, and probable bankruptcy. The limb would not so shrink were there not disease preying upon it.